

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1     1.     A method of processing observed data, comprising steps of:  
2             receiving a first signal coming from a medium for a predetermined  
3     time period as a first data set;  
4             receiving a second signal coming from the medium for the  
5     predetermined time period as a second data set;  
6             plotting the first data set and the second data set on a  
7     two-dimensional orthogonal coordinate system; and  
8             rotating the first data set and the second data set plotted on the  
9     coordinate system by a rotating matrix to separate a signal component and a  
10    noise component contained in the observed data.
- 1     2.     The signal processing method as set forth in claim 1, further  
2     comprising a step of subjecting the signal component to a frequency analysis  
3     to determine a fundamental frequency of the signal component.
- 1     3.     A signal processor, in which the signal processing method as set forth  
2     in claim 1 is executed.
- 1     4.     A pulse photometer adapted to observe a pulse wave of a living body,  
2     comprising  
3             a light emitter, adapted to irradiate the living body with a first light  
4     beam having a first wavelength and a second light beam having a second  
5     wavelength which is different from the first wavelength;

6           a converter, operable to convert the first light beam and the second  
7 light beam, which have been reflected or transmitted from the living body, into  
8 a first data set corresponding to the first wavelength and a second data set  
9 corresponding to the second wavelength; and  
10           a processor, operable to process the first data set and the second  
11 data set with a rotating matrix to separate a signal component and a noise  
12 component contained in the pulse wave.

1       5.       The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 4, wherein:  
2           the processor is operable to plot the first data set and the second data  
3 set on a two-dimensional orthogonal coordinate system constituted by a first  
4 axis corresponding to the first data set and a second axis corresponding to the  
5 second data set; and  
6           the first data set and the second data set plotted on the coordinate  
7 system are to be rotated by the rotating matrix.

1       6.       The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first data set  
2 and the second data set are obtained for a predetermined time period  
3 consecutively.

1       7.       The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 5, wherein a rotating angle  
2 of the rotating matrix is determined such that a distribution range of the first  
3 data set and the second data set which are projected on one of the first axis  
4 and the second axis is minimized.

1     8.     A pulse photometer, comprising  
2             a light emitter, adapted to irradiate a living body with a first light beam  
3     having a first wavelength and a second light beam having a second  
4     wavelength which is different from the first wavelength;  
5             a converter, operable to convert the first light beam and the second  
6     light beam, which have been reflected or transmitted from the living body, into  
7     a first data set corresponding to the first wavelength and a second data set  
8     corresponding to the second wavelength; and  
9             a processor, operable to:  
10            plot the first data set and the second data set on a  
11   two-dimensional orthogonal coordinate system corresponding to the first  
12   wavelength and the second wavelength;  
13            calculate a first norm value for the first data set and a second  
14   norm value for the second data set to obtain a norm ratio of the first norm  
15   value and the second norm value; and  
16            obtain a concentration of at least one light-absorbing material in  
17   blood of the living body, based on the norm ratio.

1     9.     The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 8, wherein the  
2     concentration of the light-absorbing material is at least one of an oxygen  
3     saturation in arterial blood, a concentration of abnormal hemoglobin in arterial  
4     blood, and a concentration of injected dye in arterial blood.

1     10.    The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 4, wherein the processor is  
2     operable to:

3           subject the signal component to a frequency analysis to determine at  
4   least one of a fundamental frequency of the pulse wave and a pulse rate of the  
5   living body; and

6           obtain a concentration of at least one light-absorbing material in blood  
7   of the living body, based on at least one of the fundamental frequency and the  
8   pulse rate.

1   11.     The pulse photometer as set forth in claim 10, wherein the  
2   concentration of the light-absorbing material is at least one of an oxygen  
3   saturation in arterial blood, a concentration of abnormal hemoglobin in arterial  
4   blood, and a concentration of injected dye in arterial blood.